LIFE IN NATURE ON LAKE MICHIGAN

New Buffalo Times

NEWS
$1

THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF NEW BUFFALO, MICHIGAN • SINCE 1942

CHICAGO • LONG BEACH • MICHIANA SHORES • GRAND BEACH • NEW BUFFALO • UNION PIER • THREE OAKS • LAKESIDE • HARBERT • SAWYER

issue 2, volume 84 | www.newbuffalotimes.com | Thursday, January 9, 2025

Berrien County Health Department offering free Radon kits during Radon Action Month
PAGE 3

Village of Three Oaks introduces chlorine into water system after issuing boil order
PAGE 3

Neighbor by Neighbor Executive Director dives into new role
PAGE 5

OWI alleged in injury accident on New Year's Day **PAGE 10**

School of American Music hires new executive director, school director
PAGE 14

INTO THE WOODS...
HIKERS START NEW YEAR ON THE RIGHT FOOT

— PAGE 8 —

PHOTO OF PAT FISHER LEADING HIKERS THROUGH ROBINSON WOODS PRESERVE BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Auto-Owners INSURANCE
LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS

HARBOR COUNTRY INSURANCE AGENCY

Gregory A. Bubb, CIC
269-469-4438
212 S Whittaker St.
New Buffalo, MI

www.HARBORCOUNTRYINSURANCE.com

INTEGRITY • EXPERIENCE • SUCCESS
L & B
LaRose & Bosco, Ltd.
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
CHICAGO, IL • NEW BUFFALO, MI
MARK A. LAROSE
mlarose@laroseboscolaw.com
Real Estate, Business Law, Commercial Transactions, Injury Law
New Buffalo: (269) 469-8440
Chicago: (312) 642-4414

WHEN YOU LOOK GOOD, YOU FEEL GOOD
the Love Spell boutique
9 W MECHANIC ST
NEW BUFFALO, MI

BOOK YOUR EVENT TODAY!!!
BANQUET HALL
SEATS 55 PEOPLE
AL FUEGO GRILL & BAR
MEXICAN RESTAURANT
BREAKFAST
LUNCH • DINNER
OPEN DAILY • 7AM-10PM
18529 Harbor Country Drive
NEW BUFFALO
FIND US ON GOOGLE

21+ GRAND OPENING
THE FLOWER BOWL
THE FLOWER BOWL
NEW BUFFALO
FREE WEED
& 50% OFF
See Store for Details!
MKX
Empire
10168 US-12 E | NEW BUFFALO, MI
WWW.FLOWERBOWL.COM

New Buffalo Times
LOCAL INTELLIGENCE
— SINCE 1942 —

ETHICS
SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISM
MICHIGAN PRESS ASSOCIATION MEMBER

PROPRIETOR
NEW BUFFALO TIMES, INC.

EDITOR
NEW BUFFALO TIMES INTELLIGENCE
EDITORIAL BOARD

CREATIVE DIRECTOR
JOE DURK

REPORTERS/WRITERS
THERESE DONNELLY
FRANCESCA SAGALA
LAWRENCE VON EBELER
KURT MARGGRAF
ALEXANDER FATOUROS
SOPHIA R. FATOUROS
STAN MADDUX
KRISTIN E. FATOUROS
NEW BUFFALO TIMES INTELLIGENCE
NEW BUFFALO TIMES POLITICS
GUESTS

QUOTES
DINO N. FATOUROS

PROOFING
FRANCESCA SAGALA

BROADCAST/ADVERTISING
JANINE ADAMSKI 630-370-0820
OR JANINEADAMSKI@GMAIL.COM

SUGGESTIONS, CRITICISM, IDEAS
MEDIA@NEWBUFFALOTIMES.COM

ADVERTISING
MEDIA@NEWBUFFALOTIMES.COM

CLASSIFIED ADS
CLASSIFIEDS@NEWBUFFALOTIMES.COM

SUBSCRIPTIONS
SUBSCRIPTIONS@NEWBUFFALOTIMES.COM

COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY WITH NEW BUFFALO TIMES
INFO@NEWBUFFALOTIMES.COM

Periodical Postage paid in New Buffalo, MI. Postmaster, please send address changes to:
NEW BUFFALO TIMES
PO BOX 369, New Buffalo, MI 49117

©2025 NEW BUFFALO TIMES, INC.
PUBLICATION NUMBER 377960
CIRCULATION 5,000+ WEEKLY

NEW BUFFALO TIMES distribution:
Milda's Corner Market • Sawyer Garden Center • The Whistle Stop
David's Delicatessen • Barney's
Knoll Bros. • Stray Dog
Infusco Coffee Roasters
Black Currant Bakehouse
The Marina Grand • Redamak's
Big C Lumber
Between Casey's and Nancy's
Sawyer Hardware • The Harbor Grand
Froehlics - Three Oaks
Journeyman Distillery - Three Oaks
The Acorn Theater - Three Oaks
The Lakeside Inn

For the most convenient location, you can subscribe to get the *NEW BUFFALO TIMES* in your mailbox or inbox. Please email us for E-TIMES, info@newbuffalotimes.com.

Berrien County Health Department offering free Radon kits during Radon Action Month

During Radon Action Month, the Berrien County Health Department is reminding community members about the dangers of radon and offering free radon testing kits.

Radon is an invisible, odorless radioactive gas that can be found in homes and is the second-leading cause of cancer in the U.S. after smoking. The Environmental Protection Agency estimates radon is responsible for about 20,000 lung cancer deaths in the country each year.

Radon comes from the natural decay of uranium that is found in nearly all soils and can move up through the ground into the air and enter homes through cracks in the home's foundation. There are no short-term side effects or a distinctive color, smell or taste to alert individuals of elevated radon levels in their home. Testing is the only way to determine if radon levels are at an actionable level.

Home radon testing kits can cost between $10 and $200. Throughout January, the Berrien County Health Department is offering free radon testing kits to community members while supplies last.

Testing kits may be picked up at BCHD's offices in Benton Harbor, 2149 E. Napier Ave., and Niles, 1205 N. Front St. during business hours: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Friday. One per household, please.

"Many residents often overlook radon or are simply unaware of its presence," said Nick Margaritis, BCHD's manager of environmental health services. "The Berrien County Health Department is taking action against this hidden danger and providing free testing kits to our community. By providing education about radon and free testing kits, we are enhancing the safety and health of Berrien County residents."

It is recommended residents test for radon every two to five years. According to the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, 1 in every 4 homes is believed to have radon levels exceeding the federal action level. Elevated radon levels have been found in all 83 Michigan counties.

While elevated radon levels pose a threat to community health, they can easily be addressed through a radon mitigation system once identified.

For more information on radon testing and resources, visit www.michigan.gov/radon.

Learn more about radon testing kits offered through BCHD by calling 269-927-5623. — STAFF REPORTS

Village of Three Oaks introduces chlorine into water system after issuing boil order

The Village of Three Oaks Water Department introduced chlorine into the water system as part of its method of treating it Tuesday, Jan. 7, after issuing a "Drinking Water Warning" Jan. 6.

"This treatment is being conducted in response to a boil water advisory that was issued due to coliforms detected in routine water sampling. The introduction of chlorine, along with our hydrant flushing, will help ensure the system is properly disinfected," a notice on the village's website stated.

Per the website, during the village's routine January sampling for the presence of drinking water contaminants, it "received a positive coliform sample."

Residents were told not to drink the water without boiling it first.

"Bring all water to a boil, let it boil for one minute, and let it cool before using, or use bottled water. Boiled or bottled water should be used for drinking, making ice, brushing teeth, washing dishes, and preparing food. Boiling kills bacteria and other organisms in the water. Continue using boiled or bottled water until further notice," the warning said.

"Total coliform bacteria are generally not harmful themselves. Coliforms are bacteria which are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, bacteria may be present."

"Usually, coliforms are a sign that there could be a problem with the treatment or distribution system (pipes). Whenever we detect coliform bacteria in any sample, we do follow-up testing to see if other bacteria of greater concern, such as E. coli, are present. No E. coli has been detected," the warning said.

On Jan. 7, the village said it would inform residents when sampling "shows that no bacteria are detected."

Those with questions were advised to contact the Water Department at 269-612-7000 or by email at managwer@threeoaksvillage.org. — STAFF REPORTS

I like everyone that is a good person regardless of what they look like, own, etcetera. It's over for Evil however and anyone that associates with it, knowingly or unknowingly ... — *Dino N. Fatouros*

Local Government Meetings

New Buffalo Times

Democracy Requires Transparency

CITY OF NEW BUFFALO
VANCE PRINCE, MAYOR
CITY COUNCIL
MARK ROBERTSON, ROGER LIJEWSKI, KAREN GEAR, RICH KNOLL, VANCE PRICE
City Council meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30PM
CITY OF NEW BUFFALO PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 5:30PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP BOARD
HOWARD MALES, MICHELLE HEIT, MICHELLE HANNON, PATTY IAZZETTO, BARBARA ANDERSON
Board meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 4PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30PM
SHERIFF BERRIEN COUNTY
Sheriff, Chuck Heit
Undersheriff, Greg Sanders
NEW BUFFALO AREA RECREATIONAL AUTHORITY
Meets at 10AM on the 2nd Wednesday of every other month (odd) at New Buffalo Township Hall, 17425 Red Arrow Highway New Buffalo
NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS BOARD
LISA WERNER, JOHN HASKINS, DENISE CHURCHILL, JENNIFER SUMMERS, VANESSA THUN, STEPHEN DONNELLY, GREG VOSBERG
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD
DAVID BUNTE, PAULA DUDIAK, LIZ RETTIG, RICHARD SULLIVAN, ARTHUR ANDERSON
Chikaming Board meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30PM
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30PM
THREE OAKS
THREE OAKS TOWNSHIP BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7PM
VILLAGE OF THREE OAKS BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7PM
GRAND BEACH
Meets on the 3rd Wednesday at 5PM EST
KIMBERLY WOLNIK, CLERK-TREASURER
HARRY WALDER, JACK GRACE, ED SEBASTIAN, PETER DOERR, EDWARD BRANDES
MICHIANA
VILLAGE OF MICHIANA COUNCIL
Meets on the 2nd Friday of each month at 1PM

More legally purchased marijuana from Michigan arrests in Indiana

BY STAN MADDUX

At least two customers of marijuana dispensaries outside New Buffalo were recently arrested when allegedly caught with the products in Indiana, where cannabis remains illegal.

Oscar Munoz, 28, of Lake Villa, Illinois, and Rebecca Micco, 42, of Valparaiso, Indiana, could each face an up to a six-month jail sentence and maximum $1,000 fine.

According to La Porte County Police, Munoz was pulled over Dec. 30 for not wearing a seat belt after pulling out of a gas station at Indiana 39 and U.S. 20 in Springville.

Police said an odor of marijuana detected at his open driver's side window resulted in more than 100 grams of the green leafy substance, along with three cannabis cigars being found during a search of the vehicle.

According to police, the products were in packaging containing the name of a marijuana dispensary.

The dispensary is near Interstate 94 in New Buffalo Township.

Munoz is charged with Class B misdemeanor possession of marijuana in La Porte Superior Court 4 in Michigan City.

The other arrest on Jan. 2 happened in Porter County, where Micco was stopped by a sheriff's deputy for speeding, tailgating and other hazardous driving practices during a light snow event on U.S. 30 near Valparaiso.

Police said a search turned up a small amount of marijuana along with 36 grams of THC gummies in a backpack inside her vehicle.

The packaging of those products were also from a dispensary, according to police.

That dispensary is in close proximity to the one the previously arrested individual had patronized.

Micco is facing a Class B misdemeanor possession of marijuana charge in Porter Superior Court 3.

Proposed legislation targets marijuana dispensary billboards

BY STAN MADDUX

An effort is underway to try and impose restrictions on billboards in Indiana that advertise marijuana dispensaries in states like Michigan.

In La Porte County, for example, billboards advertising marijuana and the stores legally offering the drug outside New Buffalo are along Interstate 94 and other highways like Indiana 39 and U.S. 12.

State Representative Jim Pressel of Rolling Prairie said the question is whether billboards advertising marijuana should be allowed in Indiana where the drug remains against the law.

Pressel said the billboards are widespread not just here but across other parts of northern Indiana.

"It is definitely a problem, having those advertisements and they're a little bit annoying," he said.

Leading the effort to address the billboards is Indiana State Representative Joanna King of Middlebury.

She has presented a bill in the Indiana House of Representatives that could receive consideration while the state legislature is in session during the first quarter of this year.

Under the measure, a person may not advertise a product containing marijuana or a marijuana business on a sign within 1,000 feet of a school, playground, youth program center, public park, and public library.

The bill calls for fines starting at $5,000 then $10,000 for a second violation and $15,000 for each additional violation.

Civil action could also be taken by the Indiana Attorney General's Office against violators to recover their expenses related to enforcement.

Those monies would be deposited into the state's general fund.

The bill has been submitted to the Indiana House Judiciary Committee for further consideration.

Pressel said state lawmakers should also carefully examine whether such restrictions on billboards, if legally challenged, would hold up in court under freedom of speech rights protected by the U.S. Constitution.

It is not so much our friends' help that helps us, as the confidence of their help. — *Epicurus*

Neighbor by Neighbor Executive Director dives into new role

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Only a little over a month into her new job as executive director of Neighbor by Neighbor, and already, Laura Richards is bowled over by the generosity of the community.

"I spent the month of December just watching as donor after donor comes in and volunteer after volunteer comes in...They're just handing us money and they're just giving us their time," she said from the organization's Union Pier office.

It's one of the reasons Richards said that she deems the job "a beautiful, perfect fit" for her.

"Because I'd been in human resources, I'd done some grant writing, I'd done budgeting, I'd managed people, I'd done all that and then being able to bring all that together with just helping out vulnerable populations - that's perfect," she said.

Having grown up in Sodus, Michigan, Richards attended Lake Michigan Catholic in St. Joseph before obtaining a bachelor's degree from Western Michigan University and an MBA from Cornerstone University.

For most of her career, Richards said she's worked in human resources. When the economy experienced a downturn, she found a job in the desert-ridden Okanogan County, which straddles the Canadian border and averages 10 people per square mile, in Washington state.

Upon returning to the area with her family, Richards signed up to be a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for foster children, which led to the adoption of her son. She started her own nonprofit, My Mother's Soup Kitchen, which works with the Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen.

It was a chance encounter with "Cash," a homeless man who was collecting cans in an alley behind her and her husband's house in downtown St. Joseph, though, that changed her career path.

Laura Richards (center) stands with Jen Bomar, program and grant director, Meg Smyth, service coordinator, Michael Howe, AmeriCorps Member and Mary Campbell accountant

Richards said she first spotted him while taking out the trash one winter morning. Once she was done with the trash, she returned to her house.

"I thought, that was really rude - why did you have that knee jerk of not wanting to talk to this gentleman?" Richards said.

The next morning, she went to the garage and sat in there: "I said, 'Lord, I'm just sitting in here for an hour and that's the most I can do because I'm freezing.'" Finally, she saw Cash, who shared his story: Out on the East Coast, his trailer caught on fire and his truck died, and he couldn't get to work. Friends invited him to live in Michigan; however, that situation didn't work out.

In his seven years of being homeless, Cash found help within the community: McDonalds would sometimes give him a free cup of coffee and Harding's downtown would sometime let him use the bathroom and sleep behind their facility.

"He said, 'Honestly, people in this community are so giving - I needed reading glasses and someone at the library gave me some glasses,'" Richards said.

Cash said he'd learned that, upon his death, his father had left him an annuity; however, to access that money, he needed some form of identification. Once Richards had helped Cash get the necessary documents, her husband took him to the bank. Next stop was Meijer's, where Cash got clothes.

"That night, he checked into a hotel, and he called me and said, 'For the first time in seven years, I'm sitting on a bed, drinking a beer and watching TV,'" Richard said.

When asking the people who she served through My Mother's Soup Kitchen what she could do to help them, 99 percent of them said "I don't have documentation." People at the social security administration and county administration building became familiar with Richards, as she provided transportation to those who needed it to obtain the necessary documents that would get them back on their feet.

"It's not just feeding them - that's the start of it, you can't do anything if you're hungry - but after you feed them, how do you help these people?" Richards said.

In working with Dan Petersen, the executive director of The Pokagon Fund, Richards said that they hope to glean ideas from other communities on how to address homelessness "in an appropriate way." Addressing mental health, such as making seeking help more affordable, is also a priority.

"What does our future look like? I envision something that's expanded beyond what we currently do because the need is there – I don't know what that is yet but between homelessness and mental health, we see a gap in resources," she said.

Providing hot food, as Richards learned from talking with David Heyn, the executive director of Harbor Country Mission, is another need.

Richards hopes to work with what she views as being two types of "neighbors:" The ones who the organization serves and the ones who give of themselves.

"Our neighbors around here are very needy and they're very generous so being able to mash those two up...It's a gift," she said.

A meet and greet with Richards will take place from 4-5 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 6, at the Bentwood Tavern in New Buffalo, followed by a dinner, where 50% of that night's revenues will go toward Neighbor by Neighbor. Guests can reserve a spot at www.bentwoodtavern.com.

To Your Health

COLUMN BY KAREN EDWARDS ND

HEALING BENEFITTS OF COCONUT OIL

Research has shown that not all saturated fats are alike. Coconut oil is unique in its structural make-up due to its medium chain fatty acids. The closest to that is found in human breast milk. This is the reason coconut oil is used extensively in baby formula.

A bit of Science. "Coconut oil is nature's richest source of lauric acid, which forms into monolaurin in the body. Monolaurin has antiviral, antibacterial, and antiprotozoal properties that destroy lipid coated viruses such as HIV, Herpes, cytomegalovirus, different strains of flu, bacterias including Heliobacter pylori- Dr. Bruce Fife

Coconut oil has the ability to raise our metabolism. It helps the thyroid to function better. Anyone with a sluggish metabolism will notice the immediate effects of using coconut oil in their diet. Many have praised coconut oil for natural weight loss. It specifically reduces abdominal fat.

Candida sufferers also benefit with coconut oil. Those suffering from various skin diseases are seeing tremendous health benefits by applying coconut oil directly on the skin. It is my favorite hair conditioner. Apply it lightly on dry hair, cover with plastic wrap for a few hours, then wash out. Pure silk!

In a study of those eating 2 tablespoons of coconut oil a day, it has been shown to reduce LDL (bad) cholesterol and Increase HDL (good) cholesterol. I use it like butter on my food or in smoothies.

Research has come from people suffering from Alzheimer's disease, with reports of improving the effects, using it regularly in their diet. For full report on this, go to: www.coconutoil.com/coconut-oil-alzheimers/

When you purchase coconut oil, make sure you are getting the highest quality pure virgin cold pressed. This is stable and will not oxidize or go rancid for many years.

The liver loves coconut oil. Coconut oil does not require the same enzyme activity for digestion as the poly-unsaturated fats. It is transported directly through the portal vein from the stomach to the liver where it is used as an immediate source of energy. Many athletes and body builders find this beneficial, giving them an advantage in sustaining energy levels longer without drugs or stimulants.

Coconut oil is now being recognized by the medical community as a powerful tool against immune diseases. Several studies have been done on its effectiveness, and incredible nutritional value of pure coconut oil.

Coconut oil is very stable, it is highly resistant to free radical damage when heated, even at high temperature, is an especially safe oil to cook with.

I have included coconut oil as part of a healing diet with my patients. Try my favorite chocolate pudding recipe that has no dairy, no sugar, and is a healthy treat that the whole family will enjoy.

In a high speed blender, add ingredients and blend until creamy: 2 ripe avocados peeled and pitted. 6 pitted dates, ¼ cup agave or local honey, ¼ cup almond milk, 3 Tablespoons organic cacao, and 2 Tablespoons Coconut oil. Add more milk if needed. Put into serving dishes and refrigerate. It will firm as it chills. Top with fresh berries and hemp or flax seeds.

Disclaimer: Nothing in these articles is meant to replace medical advice. If you are on medications, do not stop taking them. Be responsible for your own health.

Karen Edwards is a board-Certified Dr. of Naturopathy, Master Herbalist, Vegan and Raw food Chef. She is owner of Holistic Alternatives in New Buffalo and La Porte for over 25 years.

Most cows on burning trailer survive

BY STAN MADDUX

Most of the large Angus cows hauled by a semi-truck survived a recent trailer fire on Interstate 94 a few south of the Michigan state line.

All but two of the 35 cows survived.

According to Indiana State Police, emergency responders Friday, Jan. 3, were called about 2:30 a.m. to the 41-mile marker in northern La Porte County on a report of a fully loaded cattle that was hauling trailer on fire beside the eastbound lanes.

ISP Sgt. Glen Fifield of the Lowell Post said the brakes on the rear tires of the eastbound trailer apparently locked up and generated enough heat to catch the back tires on each side of the trailer on fire.

Upon arrival, Springfield Township Fire Chief Steve Marvel said there were flames reaching about three to four feet high along with heavy black smoke, which was mostly pouring from the burning tires.

He said the flames were hot enough to burn a hole in the floor on the back end of the trailer, where some of the cows were standing.

After falling through the hole, Fifield said one of the cows was injured badly enough to have to be euthanized by a veterinarian, who was called to the scene.

He said the other cow was put down as a result of injuries suffered from being kicked in the head by another cow.

Marvel said the restless cows were moving as close as they could toward the front of the trailer to get away from the fire.

"There was really not a lot of noise coming from them except from trying to move to stay away from the smoke and the heat," he said.

Fortunately, Marvel said there was a decent breeze carrying the black smoke away from the cows or more could have perished.

"When you have tires on fire it definitely puts off a lot of toxic smoke," he said.

Marvel said there were three separate compartments on the trailer, with each one holding about a dozen cows.

He said the cows were not immediately released from the trailer because it took only about three minutes to put out the flames and to avoid the potential for greater tragedy from being along the six lane interstate.

"If those cows would have got out, we would have had a lot bigger mess," he said.

Fifield said the cows was loaded onto another trailer at some point to resume their trip.

No information was available on where the cows came from or their destination.

Fifield said it's not uncommon for trailer fires to occur from the brakes on the rear tires locking up.

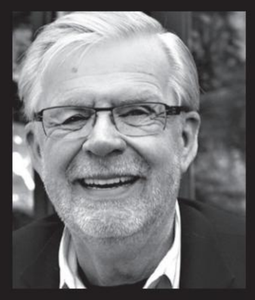
Fortunately, in this case, he said the flames did not spread further given the live cargo.

"They thought it was going to be worse than what it was," he said.

SPORTS

From the Bleachers

COLUMN BY KURT MARGGRAF IN CHICAGO



In sports, the year 2025 has gotten off to a fabulous beginning.

I guess I'm just talking about football, and some of this column is tongue in cheek, but the first week of the new year has been more satisfying than the entire 2024 season.

The beginning of the week saw the University of Notre Dame knocking off perennial powerhouse Georgia by a score of 23-10. The game was surrounded by tragedy in New Orleans, and had to be delayed for a day because of the terrorist attack on Bourbon Street.

Before the game began the father of Georgia's coach, Kirby Smart, fell and fractured his hip. Unfortunately, surgery was required and Mr. Smart passed away from complications.

But the game itself was fantastic, with the underdog Fighting Irish overpowering Georgia by a score of 23-10. That leaves only four teams still standing, Texas will play Ohio State and Penn State will take on Notre Dame, with the winners playing for the national championship. Three of the four finalists are midwestern teams which is a nice change as the south has been dominating college football for quite awhile.

The NFL regular season concluded last Sunday night when two of the seasons best faced off against each other. Both Minnesota and Detroit had 14-2 records and competed evenly in the first half, before the Lions superior firepower took control and saw them run away to a 31-9 victory. Detroit looked really good and I won't be surprised at all if they become Super Bowl champions.

The other game that drew a lot of local interest was the Bears/Packers game. The Bears had a season that was as disappointing as any I can remember, while the Packers continue, like a well oiled machine, to make the playoffs.

While a Bears victory would probably cost them a few spots in the draft, it would also end a few streaks that were weighing heavily on the team and their fans. Virginia Halas McCaskey, the principal owner of the team, turned 102 Sunday, and darn if the Bears didn't go out and beat the Packers to give her a rare birthday present. The victory ended a 10 game losing streak, and began 2025 with an undefeated record of 1-0.

It also ended an 11 game losing streak against the Packers and put a little swagger back into the organization. Fortunately, the Bears only fell one spot in the draft and they will now draft tenth.

The next big happening for the team will be the hiring of new coaches and then drafting and getting free agents to totally revamp the offensive line. Even though 2024 was disappointing, I feel optimistic about 2025. It's going to be a great year (I hope).

Bob Dylan wrote, "Come senators, congressman, please heed the call / Don't stand in the doorway, don't block up the hall / For he who gets hurt will be he who has stalled / The battle outside ragin / Will soon shake your windows and rattle your walls / For the times, they are a-changin'." Can you tell I saw "A Complete Unknown"?

Be kind. Talk to you next week. Peace, love, and happiness.

The training of children is a profession, where we must know how to waste time in order to save it.

— Jean-Jacques Rousseau

OPEN HOUSE TO HONOR RETIRED SAM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The School of American Music (SAM) will be holding an open house in honor of Donna M. Mitchell upon her retirement as SAM's executive director at the end of 2024 from 3-5 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 19, at the Arts & Education Center.

Mitchell will continue to be a music instructor for SAM and will continue to be a volunteer member of the SAM Programming and Elementary Music Education committees.

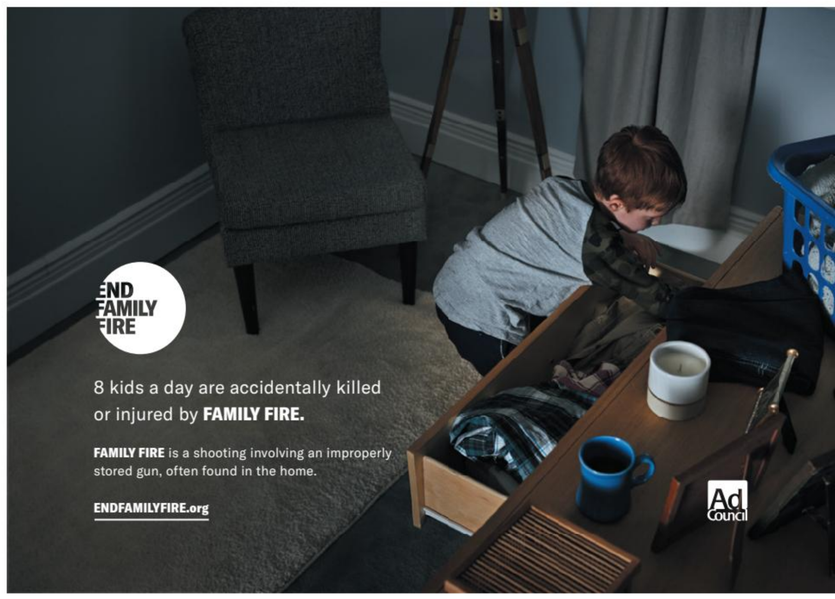
Mitchell was a volunteer executive director for the nonprofit School of American Music since 2017, and was the second executive director since the school was founded in 2012. Garth Taylor, founder; Tom Flint, president and the SAM Board of Directors thank Mitchell for being a wonderful executive director and for being a major force to help build the school into the outstanding musical community resource it is today.

Previous responsibilities of Mitchell as executive director are now being fulfilled by the hiring of Heidi Edinger Smith to be executive director and Denise Vanden Bussche to be school director.

Members of the public are invited to stop by to wish Mitchell well in her retirement as well as to enjoy food, drinks and cake.

The Arts & Education Center is located at 14 Maple Street in Three Oaks.

— STAFF REPORTS


END FAMILY FIRE
8 kids a day are accidentally killed or injured by FAMILY FIRE.
FAMILY FIRE is a shooting involving an improperly stored gun, often found in the home.
ENDFAMILYFIRE.org
Ad Council

Hikers start new year on the right foot

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Before hikers could start the new year on the right foot by embarking on a 'First Day Hike" at the Flynn Woods and Robinson Woods preserves on East Road in Three Oaks, they received some winter hiking tips.

"In the winter, you can dehydrate - so make sure you carry water with you. It gets dark early - daylight robbing time is upon us now, so we're losing daylight," Pat Fisher, president of Harbor Country Hikers, said to the group that had gathered at the preserves Wednesday, Jan. 1.

Patrick Flynn, the former supervisor for the Blue Hills Reservation, a state park in Milton, Massachusetts, just outside of Boston led 380 people on the inaugural First Day Hikes at the reservation Jan. 1, 1992.

Fisher said Flynn started the hikes "just to get people out in the winter."

"These places just sit empty in the winter if we don't use them and that's what we're going to do today," he said.

The hikes were done for several years in Massachusetts until it was suggested that other states join in, which occurred in 2012.

In 2016, the National Park Service joined in.

According to the American Hiking Society, First Day Hikes are part of a nationwide initiative led by America's State Parks to encourage everyone to get outdoors. Hundreds of free, guided hikes are organized in all 50 states on New Year's Day.

After traversing Robinson Woods, the group crossed over to Flynn, which is across the road.

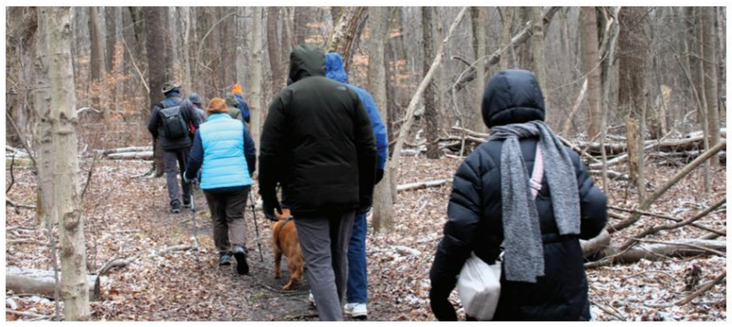
According to COL's website, William and Jean Robinson bought the land now known as Robinson Woods in the 1960s and donated the southern 65 acres to The Nature Conservancy in 1968. In 1973, the remaining northern 15 acres was donated. In 2009, The Nature Conservancy transferred the property to Chikaming Open Lands (COL).

Per the website, the property includes seasonal streams and a county drain, which eventually drain into Cherry Creek, which has a ravine that sits at the northern edge of the property. The preserve is replete with several wetland areas, which support a variety of plants and wildlife.

The Flynn Woods Preserve property was purchased by COL in 2014, with funding from the Susan Flynn family and a combination of private contributions and grant funding from The Pokagon Fund.

The John Morley Drain, which divides the property, connects to Cherry Creek, a direct tributary to Lake Michigan. The property includes a mix of oak-hickory and wetland forests which, together with Robinson Woods, creates a 115-acre protected area. A 2015 inventory unearthed 344 species, several of which are considered rare and protected at the state level.

The Hiker's next trek will begin at 1 p.m. this Saturday, Jan. 11, on the trails, which run through a 32-acre protected area with both native and planted flora, of Tower Hill Camp and Retreat Center in Sawyer.



Hikers trek through the beginning of Robinson Woods Preserve

Walkers trek through Robinson Woods Preserve

Pat Fisher (right) welcomes hikers at the entrance to Robinson Woods Preserve

Hikers gather at the entrance to Robinson Woods Preserve

Hikers walk through Robinson Woods Preserve

Fire leaves young family homeless

BY STAN MADDUX

A young La Porte County family will have to find another place to stay after fire heavily damaged their home.

Firefighters from multiple agencies just after 7 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 2, were called to the single-family residence at 9796 S. County Road 225 West near Union Mills.

"Definitely not a good way to start the New Year," said Jeremy Russell, who lived in the home for about five months with his girlfriend, one other adult and his two children ages 5 years and five months.

Russell said they were all at home when he woke up to the smell of smoke and discovered fire along with heavy smoke inside the attached garage.

Noble Township Fire Chief Scott Klemz said the flames spread into the ceiling of the attached garage before advancing into the attic of the residence and down into the kitchen and one of the bedrooms.

Klemz said the rest of the home was mostly heavily damaged from water and smoke.

The only thing left from the garage was primarily ashes firefighters began scooping up with shovels.

"The house is probably a total loss, too," Klemz said.

He said a car parked in front of the attached garage was also destroyed after being ignited by the extreme heat that radiated from the blaze.

Klemz said the cause was still under investigation, but there were early indications the source of the fire possibly had something to do with a space heater in the attached garage.

Russell said that while the space heater was not on, it was still plugged in at the time of the blaze.

After the fire was extinguished, family members were allowed to go inside and start retrieving whatever belongings they could find that weren't damaged by the fire.

"It's all gone. All of the bedrooms. All of it," Russell said.

Russell said he wasn't immediately sure where his family would stay until getting back on their feet.

"I don't know to be honest with you," he said.

OWI alleged in injury accident on New Year's Day

BY STAN MADDUX

A Sawyer woman is accused of being drunk in a serious injury collision she allegedly caused on New Year's Day on Interstate 94.

Lauren Ellis, 38, is charged in La Porte Circuit Court with operating while intoxicated as a Level 5 felony.

According to court documents, Ellis after 8 p.m. was driving a Toyota sport utility vehicle when she rear ended a trailer pulled by a van while both vehicles were eastbound outside Michigan City.

The other driver, Keith Pearson, told an Indiana State Police trooper investigating the collision the impact caused him to lose control of his van and his trailer also jackknifed, according to court documents.

His vehicle came to rest facing in the opposite direction, police said.

Pearson, who's also from Michigan, was transported to nearby Franciscan Health hospital, where he was diagnosed with a broken arm, police said.

He was also bleeding from his right ear.

According to court documents, Ellis told police the accident happened after she looked down at the screen of the cell phone she had in her hand.

Police said Ellis, who was not injured, was transported to the La Porte County Jail after a blood alcohol test revealed she was legally impaired.

The charge was upgraded from a misdemeanor to a felony because of the serious injury that resulted from the crash, authorities said.

Ellis could face anywhere from a one to six year sentence.

According to police, she was also cited for following too closely and holding or using a telecommunications device while operating a motor vehicle.

A Writer's Life...

DURING THE GOLDEN AGE OF TELEVISION ANIMATION

BY JACK OLESKER

The Shark's Lair...

Whether you meet him in DIC's conference room or his executive office, Andy Heyward dominates the room with an understated elegance and elan. He is so smooth, you'd swear you heard a silky Barry White torch song playing softly in the background.

That's how I feel when I walk into his contemporary office at DIC's studios. Andy is wearing a perfectly tailored size-40 gray business suit with burgundy-framed eyeglasses that match his thin leather burgundy tie. He smiles, motions to a chair and gauges me as I sit. He compliments me on my first two scripts for The Littles, although I doubt he's read them. In fairness, I think he is much too involved with really important matters to have the time to read a new writer's scripts.

He moves our meeting quickly along. I know how I handle things in the next half-hour is going to have a major impact on my career path, so out of the blue I shift the conversation and blurt, "How do you get all those eyeglasses to always match the colors of your ties?" It's one of the few times I will ever see Andy caught off guard. As if against his will, his battle armor momentarily dips, he breaks into a grin and lets out a short-but-genuine laugh.

When Andy catches his breath, he grins wider, leans forward conspiratorially and shares, "I buy them as sunglasses for a buck a pair at Venice Beach, pop out the lenses and put clear prescription ones into the frames."

I've bonded with the shark.

From the moment I had the cajones to ask how he managed to acquire so many pairs of eyeglasses that he could match the colors to his ties, my relationship with Andy Heyward changes. I'm certainly not some huge 747 looming on his radar, but I'm at least a blip; he's at least aware of me.

Now Andy is looking at me differently, making eye contact, measuring, always measuring and at the same time holding his cards close to his chest. I don't want to ever get into a poker game with him.

I know Andy hasn't asked me to his office to chat about my scripts for The Littles. As is often the case with powerful executives, he's cordial because he wants something. My knowing that, I feel, gives me a microscopic edge. I exhale for what feels like the first time since I've come into his office. I lean back in my chair and force myself to relax. Andy smiles a slight smile, at least four steps ahead of me, knowing exactly what I'm thinking, interested to see how I'll react to what he is about to say, already planning how we will strategize together about the news he will deliver and, I'd like to believe, gaining a tiny bit of respect for me because of my newfound relaxed manner. I think my stock ticks up a few points in those seconds.

But my 'newfound relaxed manner' is about to go out the window. As abruptly as I had blurted my question about where he got all his eyeglasses, Andy says "Judy Price wants to meet you."

He might just as well have said the Pope wants to meet me!

Jack Olesker's career in the entertainment industry spans over four decades. He has served as a story editor in L.A. as well as president of a motion picture and television company in Chennai, India. His writing ranges from Mighty Morphin Power Rangers, Care Bears and Hello Kitty's Furry Tale Theater to documentaries and horror novels and murder mysteries for adults.

HOROSCOPE

JANUARY 9-15, 2025

AS INTERPRETED BY SANDY "STAR" BENDT

ARIES MARCH 21—APRIL 19

The vibe radiating towards you this week will focus on your feelings and family situation. This is the time to resolve any reoccurring issues in that area. Know that security and the ability to talk openly must be honored. A good leader sees the value of each member and respects it.

TAURUS APRIL 20—MAY 20

This is the week to reach out to friends and establish a schedule of getting together or accomplishing a project. Learning things about yourself as an individual, while being part of a team is what the universe is throwing at you now. Make the most of it by contributing and getting involved.

GEMINI MAY 21—JUNE 21

You can expect a wakeup call this week, as your value systems and sense of self-worth are being put to the test now. There may be things you think should go a certain way or look good on paper but in reality, don't work out. Use this as an opportunity to know what works and what doesn't.

CANCER JUNE 22—JULY 22

This week the energy is all about seeing how you fit into the bigger picture. The universe will be offering you the ability to see what gifts and talents you possess and offer to the world, while maintaining the ability to serve your self-interests at the same time. You can benefit while you give.

LEO JULY 23—AUGUST 22

The vibe radiating your way this week is all about letting things go and embracing the bigger picture. You will be blessed with the ability to see beyond petty matters to the bigger picture. Use that gift to the fullest by being the first one to apologize, make amends and move forward.

VIRGO AUGUST 23—SEPTEMBER 22

This week the energy is focused on your friends and social life. This is the time to network and branch out. Partners and previous employers can be helpful in introducing you to important content and resources but you need to be the one to take it to the next level. Make those calls and do the updates.

LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23—OCTOBER 22

You can expect to feel some added responsibilities to your workload, as you are moved into a more leadership position. Whether it is just your coworkers looking for you to delegate or the boss actually giving you a promotion, it is important do what is best for the team while maintaining boundaries.

SCORPIO OCTOBER 23—NOVEMBER 21

Your heartstrings and sense of adventure are being ignited this week. There will be a strong pull to get out and explore or experience something new and exciting. Know that the universe is creating this vibe to get you more in tune with your points of happiness and evolvement with joy.

SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22—DECEMBER 21

The vibe radiating from the stars this week is all about reciprocity and sharing the wealth. There are some things that will always have value and will be of importance that are beyond the physical, like the ability to listen and empathize with family and partners. Hugs are part of that value system.

CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22—JANUARY 19

This week the energy is all about learning how to communicate within a partnership and maintain individuality while being a strong partner. Sometimes that means letting the other person know when they are disappointing you. Being authentic means showing your bad side too.

AQUARIUS JANUARY 20—FEBRUARY 18

The energy coming your way is centered on your relationships with coworkers and your habitual behaviors. This is the time to really get a grip on your daily work schedules and personal routines. The universe will bring situations into your awareness about what is really healthy and vital; accept it.

PISCES FEBRUARY 19—MARCH 20

Your creative desires and visions will be getting a nice boost from the stars this week. Use it to it's fullest by updating your resume as well as your vision board. Be sure to follow up with social opportunities now, as they could lead to real business and career opportunities in the future.

Choose rather to be strong of soul than strong of body.
— Pythagoras

THE BENDT SHOVEL
Perennial Garden Maintenance
Sandra Bendt
(219) 874-2269

Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.

7			9					6
			2	7				
	6				3			2
	9				8	7	2	
	5						8	
6			1				9	3
	8					1		
				8				
3					2			

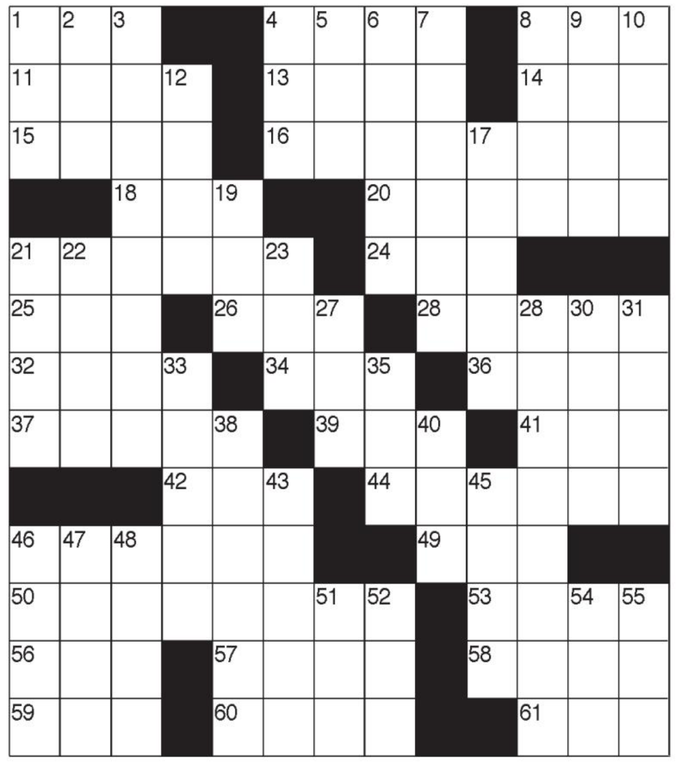
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 Lou Gehrig's disease (abbr.)
4 Defensive ditch
8 Anglo-Saxon letter
11 Poverty
13 Kemo ____
14 Hemp shrub
15 Hillside (Scot.)
16 Dowdy
18 Public Roads Admin. (abbr.)
20 Bits
21 Transpire
24 Long ago
25 Whenever (in prescrip.)
26 Related by blood
28 Tidal bore
32 Period of denial
34 Measure of quantity (abbr.)
36 Sediment
37 Star in Perseus
39 Council for Econ. Advisors (abbr.)
41 Nat'l Basketball Assn. (abbr.)
42 Strike
44 Gift (Fr.)
46 Becomes
49 Remote
50 Depots
53 Son of Loki
56 California (abbr.)
57 Crude metals
58 Young bull: Brit.
59 School organization (abbr.)
60 Votes
61 Environmental Protection Agency (abbr.)

DOWN

1 Air waybill (abbr.)
2 Malay gibbon
3 Nibbling
4 Master of Science in Forestry (abbr.)
5 Hand propeller
6 Maltreat
7 Synagogue
8 Heroic
9 Twilight
10 Exclamations of doubt
12 Manmade protective mound
17 Foot lever
19 Rom. bronze
21 Haw. dance
22 Brother of Cain
23 Var. of Nicholas
27 Board of War Communications (abbr.)
29 Produce
30 Var. of Rebecca
31 Son of Isaac and Rebekah
33 Book of the Apocrypha
35 Detective
38 Liquid medicinal preparation
40 Army Air Forces (abbr.)
43 Skin disease
45 In (Fr.)
46 Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters (abbr.)
47 State (Fr.)
48 FDR's dog
51 Marshal of Napoleon
52 Selective Service System (abbr.)
54 Run-of-paper (abbr.)
55 Estimated time of arrival (abbr.)



SERVICE DIRECTORY

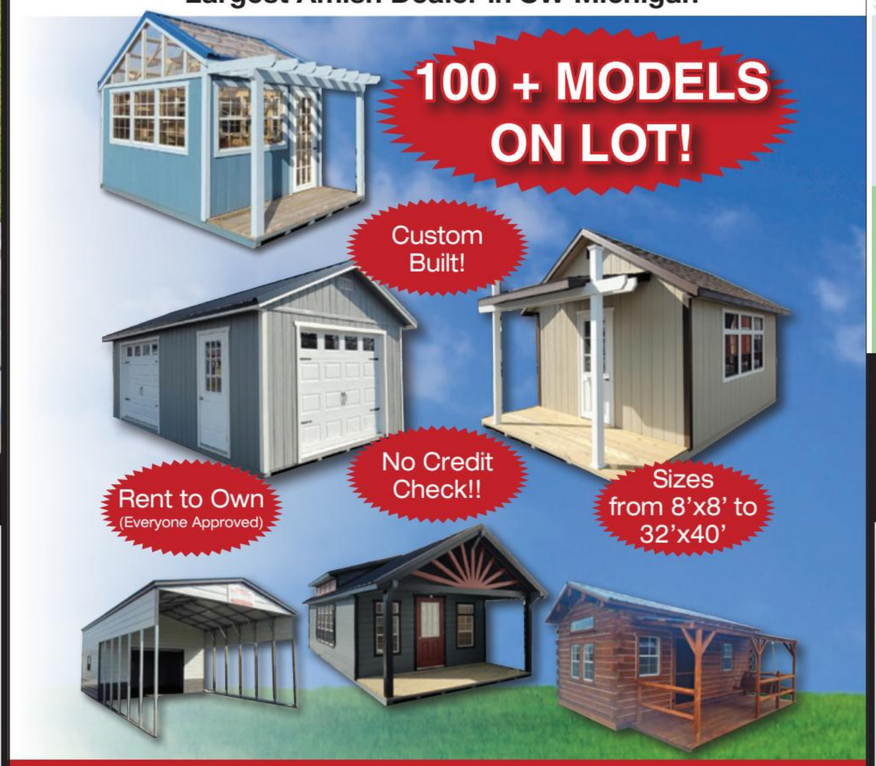
Auto-Owners INSURANCE
LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS
Harbor Country Insurance Agency
Gregory A. Bubb, CIC
269-469-4438
212 S Whittaker St.
New Buffalo, MI
www.HARBORCOUNTRYINSURANCE.com

Web Design Genesis
Genesis Web Design
St Joseph, MI
269.429.7014
Design • Maintenance • Hosting

PROFESSIONALS IN ALL OF YOUR TREE CARE NEEDS
MAPLE CITY TREE SPECIALISTS
REMOVAL
TRIMMING
PRESERVATION
STORM DAMAGE
FIREWOOD
LOT CLEARING
SNOW PLOWING
FREE ESTIMATES
Commercial • Residential
37 Years Experience • Insured
DENNIS JEFFERS, SR.
219-393-3155
maplecitytree@comcast.net

LARGEST SELECTION OF SPAS in the Area!

Artesian Spas · Nordic Hot Tubs · CalderaSpas Come to Life
SENSATIONAL Spas
Monday-Friday 9-5
Saturday 9-2
5595 Red Arrow Hwy.
Stevensville
269-429-7171
35 YEARS ANNIVERSARY
WWW.SENSATIONALHOTTUBS.COM

Amish Built Barns LLC
Largest Amish Dealer in SW Michigan


AmishBuiltBarns.com • 269-876-1323 • 2305 M-139, Benton Harbor, MI
(Old Blossom Lanes Bowling Alley)

ABUSE HOTLINE

Cora Lamping Center • The Pokagon Fund Supported

ADVERTISE ON THIS PAGE
PLEASE CONTACT JANINE L. ADAMSKI
JANINEADAMSKI@GMAIL.COM
(630) 370-0820

OBITUARIES

Kirk Lewis Swenk

1953-2024

Kirk Lewis Swenk, 71, of Three Oaks, passed unexpectedly, Wednesday, December 25, 2024.

His life began October 3, 1953 in Okemos, Michigan, the eldest of two children born to Maurice and Jane Swenk. He married Pam Delling on December 5, 1987 in Grand Rapids, MI.

Kirk was known in Kalamazoo, Saugatuck, and Grand Rapids, MI and Chicago, Evanston and Wilmette, IL for his great acting talents as Harold Hill in "The Music Man," Pseudolus in "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Her Forum," Mr. Cellophane in "Chicago," the Emcee in "Cabaret," and too many others to enumerate. He was also an accomplished copy writer, voice talent, on-camera and off-camera productions. But more importantly, he was widely acknowledged as someone with amazing wit, intelligence, kindness, acceptance and joy to his co-workers, friends and family.

Kirk will be greatly missed by family and friends. He is survived by his beloved wife of thirty-seven years, one cherished daughter, Elizabeth (Jeff) Huebner of Three Oaks; one brother, Keith Swenk of Grand Rapids; his brother and sister-in-law, Chris and Connie Delling of Sterling Heights; his sister in-law,, Mim of Virginia and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and life-long friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents and in-laws.

The family will observe a private remembrance.

The family prefers contributions in memory of Kirk be made to Actors Theatre, 106 Fountain Street NE, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503; Grand Rapids Civic Theater, 30 Division Ave N, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 or to Music Theatre Works; 1490 Chicago Avenue, Evanston, Illinois 60201.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Pobocik Chapel, Three Oaks. Please share a memory or a message online at www.wagnercares.com.

30 N Whittaker St
Deli by day

David's delicatessen & coffee
NEW BUFFALO MICHIGAN

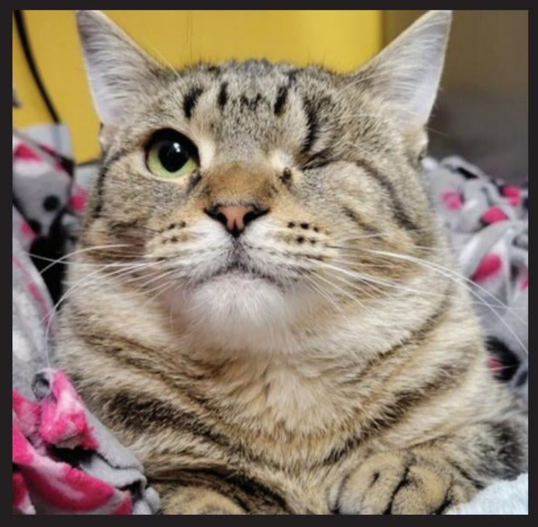
Open 6 days
davidsdeliandcoffee.com

30 N Whittaker St
Bar by night

the FALSE FRONT
NEW BUFFALO • MI

Open Thursday-Monday
thefalsefrontbar.com

PET OF THE WEEK



MAMACITA

Mamacita is a one-year-old napping kitten, and is spayed with her vaccinations up-to-date. Food is absolutely the way to her heart, as she loves Churus, cat treats, and cream cheese tastes when she gets some human food. Mamacita would love a home that has a quiet environment. Fast movements are still scary to her so move slowly when you are around her. She's quite chill, but does not seem interested either way in other furry friends just yet. You will need to give her a bit of time to acclimate to a new environment, but she does eventually come around.

AVAILABLE AT THE MICHIANA HUMANE SOCIETY

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE
New Buffalo Times
— SINCE 1942 —

7	3	2	9	4	5	8	1	6
8	1	9	2	7	6	3	5	4
5	6	4	8	1	3	9	7	2
1	9	3	4	6	8	7	2	5
4	5	7	3	2	9	6	8	1
6	2	8	1	5	7	4	9	3
2	8	5	7	3	4	1	6	9
9	4	6	5	8	1	2	3	7
3	7	1	6	9	2	5	4	8

A	L	S			M	O	A	T		E	D	H		
W	A	N	T		S	A	B	E		P	U	A		
B	R	A	E		F	R	U	M	P	I	S	H		
		P	R	A			S	P	E	C	K	S		
H	A	P	P	E	N		E	L	D					
U	B	I		S	I	B		E	A	G	R	E		
L	E	N	T		C	W	T		L	E	E	S		
A	L	G	O	L		C	E	A		N	B	A		
			B	O	P		C	A	D	E	A	U		
B	E	F	I	T	S			F	A	R				
S	T	A	T	I	O	N	S		N	A	R	E		
C	A	L		O	R	E	S		S	T	O	T		
P	T	A		N	A	Y	S			E	P	A		

PUBLIC NOTICES

Please join our New Buffalo American Legion, Women's Auxiliary in collecting donations for Blue Star Mothers of America. They are shipping care packages overseas to our active-duty members.

Examples of what they could use are: Toothbrushes/paste, floss, disposable razors, shaving cream in a squeeze tube, eye drops, hand lotion, chap stick, band aids, sunscreen, insect repellent.

Playing cards, word search, sudoku, and puzzle books, footballs, dominos, frisbees. We are accepting monetary donations as well for the shipping costs.

Please drop off all donations
by February 15th to:
New Buffalo American Legion
19139 US-12
New Buffalo, MI 49117

Our Veterans appreciate you as do we.

School of American Music hires new executive director, school director

School of American Music (SAM) of Three Oaks has hired Heidi Edinger Smith to be its new executive director and Denise Vanden Bussche for the new position of school director, which was previously part of the executive director responsibilities.

Heidi Edinger Smith of Three Oaks has 30 years of experience in sales/marketing and operations in the meetings and hospitality industry. She has opened several hotel properties, convention centers, restaurant concepts and, most recently, the Longstory Wine Bar & Restaurant in Three Oaks. In addition to her experience in the corporate world, Edinger Smith has had decades of experience in leadership roles in the non-profit and association sectors. Most recently, she has taken on marketing/event planning/fundraising responsibilities for Neighbor by Neighbor, helping to increase fundraising goals by more than 50% yearly. Music has been an integral part of Edinger Smith's life, and she is currently learning to play the keyboard and ukulele.

Denise Vanden Bussche of New Buffalo has been teaching piano and/or flute for nearly 30 years and started teaching at School of American Music in 2018. She attended Wayne State University in Detroit, where she majored in Music Education and participated in the Symphonic and Marching Band. During high school, she played in band and orchestra and traveled to Europe with the Blue Lake International Orchestra and to Mexico and the Bahamas with Musical Youth International, People-to-People Program. As school director, Vanden will also continue to be an instructor.

SAM Executive Director Heidi Edinger Smith

SAM School Director Denise Vanden Bussche

"I'm so excited to see the school take this leap. Our organization has grown exponentially in the past 5 years and adding these two highly capable and experienced members to our team will put us on track to grow even further," Tom Flint, president of SAM, said.

The nonprofit School of American Music provides education, performance, and audience opportunities in music in the Southwest Michigan area. For more information, please contact SAM at 269-409-1191 or schoolofamericanmusic@gmail.com or visit School of American Music on Facebook or the website, www.schoolofamericanmusic.com.— STAFF REPORTS

Prisoner in slaying of correctional officer pleads guilty

BY STAN MADDUX

Sentencing is scheduled for an Indiana State Prison inmate, who suddenly agreed to serve life without parole for killing a correctional officer from La Porte.

Ty'Metri Campbell was about to stand trial Monday on charges of murder, Level 1 felony attempted murder, Level 3 felony aggravated battery and Level 4 felony prisoner in possession of a deadly weapon.

The allegations stemmed from the fatal stabbing of Lt. Gene Lasco, 57, and stabbing of another correctional officer, a then 22-year-old Padrick Schmitt, who was critically injured but survived the attack in February of 2021.

La Porte County Prosecutor Sean Fagan said Campbell decided to plead guilty not long after the process began for selecting a jury in what was expected to be at least a one week trial.

"We were all ready to go for trial but things kind of changed rather quickly," he said.

Fagan said he did not did not know why Campbell, who is represented in the case by attorney David Payne of Michigan City, decided to plead guilty.

Attempts to reach Payne for insight behind the decision were not successful.

The guilty plea calls for the 42 year old Campbell to receive life without parole for murder along with 30 years for attempted murder.

The plea agreement also calls for both sentences to be served consecutively and consecutive to the 130 year sentence Campbell is already serving for a triple murder in Indianapolis in 2002.

Under the plea agreement, the two remaining charges will be dismissed.

La Porte Superior Court 2 Judge Richard Stalbrink, Jr. took the guilty plea under advisement and scheduled sentencing for January 31 if he accepts the terms.

According to court documents, Campbell while taking a shower somehow freed one of his hands from the handcuffs he was wearing and pushed his way past a correctional officer about to return him to his cell.

The officer began pursuing Campbell, who was making his way down a stairwell when he encountered and repeatedly stabbed Schmitt, authorities said.

He then stabbed Lasco multiple times after reaching the bottom of the stairwell and walked away according to court documents.

The female officer pursuing Campbell stopped to try and slow the bleeding from a neck wound on Lasco when the offender returned with the weapons used in the stabbings in both of his hands, court documents revealed.

The officer ran from Campbell, who was right behind her when she fled to safety inside an employee bathroom and quickly locked the door.

According to court documents, Campbell was still holding a knife when he dropped the blade after hit with pepper spray by another correctional officer, who tackled him to the floor.

Another correctional officer then assisted in gaining control of the offender.

One of the correctional officers involved in his apprehension said Campbell, who was yelling, screaming and acting strange, may have been under the influence of something, authorities said.

Campbell later told investigators "I was on drugs and in fear for my life," according to court documents.

Court records also disclosed that Campbell claimed to have blacked out, felt possessed by a "different entity" and had paranoid thoughts the past several days of people being out to kill him.

Schmitt was admitted to the hospital in critical but stable condition with two stab wounds each to his chest and shoulder along with single stab wounds to his arm, neck and head.

According to court documents, Lasco bled to death from his stab wounds.

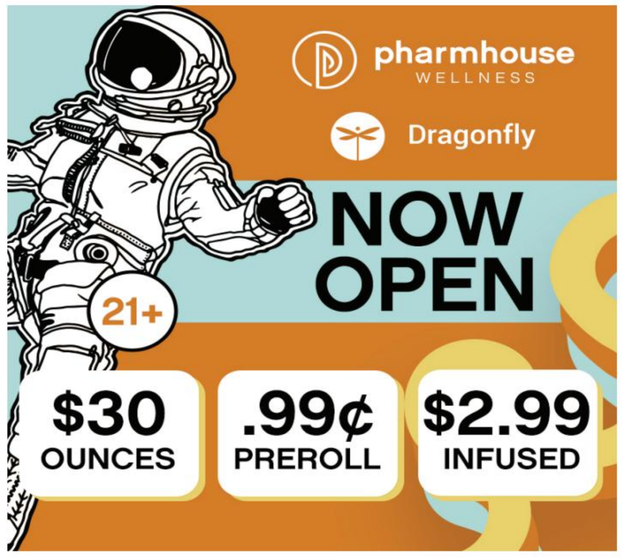
Fagan said the death penalty was not sought because of the complexities involved in pursuing such a sentence and potential for it to be overturned on appeal due to numerous factors in the case.

"The whole case has been very difficult. I'm glad we were able to bring some resolution," he said.

Passaro, Kahne, Taylor, DeFrancesco, & Thompson
LAW OFFICES *your local common-sense legal team*

685 West Main Street, Benton Harbor, MI 49022 | (269) 983-0325 | passarokahne.com
17656A US Highway 12, New Buffalo, MI 49117 | (269) 469-5297 | Fax: (269) 983-0328

- *Business/Tax Law*
- *Estate Planning*
- *Medicaid & Long-Term Care Planning*
- *Real Estate*
- *Special Needs Planning*
- *Probate and Trust Administration*



TASTE THE AMERICAN SPIRIT
THREE OAKS, MI & VALPARAISO, IN
Explore our factory and production floors to learn about the process behind our organic grain-to-glass spirits and the history of Journeyman. Tours end with an in-depth review and tasting of 10+ spirits. Tours offered weekly at both locations.
JOURNEYMAN.COM/TOURS
JOURNEYMAN

HOLIDAY SEASON

Timothy's

GIFT CARDS AVAILABLE
Buy $100 Gift Card & Receive an Additional $50 on us
use promo code **GCTIMS24**
if ordering online

Wednesday:
Maine Lobster $19.99
Thursday:
Ribeye $16.95
Sunday:
Smoked Ribs
Half $12.95
Full $19.95

FALL HOURS OPEN
Wednesday thru Sunday at 5PM

269-469-0900
16409 Red Arrow Highway
Union Pier, Michigan
WWW.TIMOTHYSRESTAURANT.COM

TRUST IT TO BE WONDERFUL.
TRUST IS TO BE SAFE.

AT YOUR SERVICE
A COMPANY OF CRAFTSMEN
WWW.ATYOURSERVICE.BUILDERS
T.269.358.8159
CUSTOM: HOMES | RENOVATION | COMMERCIAL

Calvary Chapel New Buffalo
CALVARYCHAPELNB.ORG
We are a non-denominational church teaching through the bible line by line
Sunday service 1015 ET
Thursday bible study 7pm ET
Saturday men's bible study 915 ET in person and zoom
Saturday women's bible study 1030 ET on zoom
1615 E Buffalo St. New Buffalo, Mi

Trust It To Be Wonderful
Timothys RESTAURANT
16409 Red Arrow Highway | Union Pier

Bloomery
11429 O'Brien Ct, New Buffalo, MI 49117
BLOOMERYCANNABIS.COM
EXIT 1's Best Recreational Selection
BEST PRICES | HIGH QUALITY PRODUCTS | PREMIER LOYALTY PROGRAM | + SO MUCH MORE
LOYALTY LEVEL-UP REWARDS
WE PRICE MATCH
CURBSIDE PICKUP

FREE INFUSED PRE ROLL with $30 purchase
FREE GRAM OF WAX with $50 purchase
FREE MITTEN+ 1G DISPOSABLE with $60 purchase
FREE 3.5 GRAMS FLOWER with $75 purchase
FREE 7 GRAMS FLOWER with $99 purchase
FREE MITTEN PREROLL MULTIPACK with $125 purchase
30% OFF with $150 purchase
FREE BLUE TIER OUNCE with $200 purchase
EXPIRES 8/20/24
Coupons can not be combined or stacked. Rules and restrictions apply. Limit 1 offer per customer. Valid at Bloomery New Buffalo

TREECORE
COMPLETE TREE & CRANE SERVICE
269-469-6226
Fully Insured JOE CARR

Rios
PREMIUM MEXICAN CUISINE
NEW BUFFALO